

Guide to the Diverse Sexuality and Gender Alliance records

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English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Special Collections

The Sheridan Libraries

Special Collections

3400 N Charles St

Baltimore, MD 21218

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Summary Information

Repository: Special Collections

Creator: Johns Hopkins University. Diverse Sexuality and Gender Alliance (DSAGA)

Subject: United States. Army. Reserve Officers' Training Corps

Title: Diverse Sexuality and Gender Alliance records

Identifier: RG-14-350

Date: Creation: 1986-approximately 2017

Physical Description: 1.86 Cubic Feet (1 record center box, 1 flat box)

Language of Materials: English

Abstract

The Diverse Sexuality and Gender Alliance records primarily consist of meeting minutes, executive board manuals, correspondence, broadsides, and other materials created by DSAGA between 1986 and approximately 2017.

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is housed off-site and requires 48-hours' notice for retrieval. Please contact Special Collections for more information.

Collection is open for use.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Donated by Benjamin Panico in August 2014 with an additional donation by Isabella Altherr, President of DSAGA, in October 2018.

Biographical / Historical

The Diverse Sexuality And Gender Alliance, or DSAGA, is the LGBT undergraduate student organization on the Homewood Campus of the Johns Hopkins University (JHU). DSAGA was founded in February of the 1988-89 school year under the name The Gay Caucus, then later that year was renamed GALA (Gay And Lesbian Alliance). In 1990, the organization's name was changed to BGALA (Bisexual, Gay, and Lesbian Alliance). In 1993, the name was finally changed to DSAGA (Diverse Sexuality And Gender Alliance) in order to include transgender identities and ensure that no further name changes would be necessary. DSAGA serves the student body, faculty, and staff in a variety of capacities, including education, counseling, and social opportunities. In 1990, a campus-wide action was undertaken, headed by GALA, to encourage reconsideration of JHU's ROTC program. JHU had long included sexual orientation in its non-discrimination policy, but was also provided funds to the ROTC program, which, as a program of the Department of

Defense, excluded LGBT students. A demonstration involving undergrad and graduate students, faculty, staff, and members of Maryland GLAAD and ACT-UP was held on December 4th, 1990 at Levering Hall. A campus wide survey administered by an ad-hoc committee formed by Dean Boswell revealed support for a change in policy. DSAGA was a Special Interest group under Student Activities Commission guidelines until 1997, when Arthur Brady and Karen Henein successfully proposed a reclassification as a Cultural Group. In 1996, JHU Coming Out Day was started by Gloria Guzman. On the morning of National Coming Out Day of that year, all of DSAGA's posters and chalkings had been removed by Custodial Services at the request of the University Administration. In response, Gloria organized a rally the next Friday. Ever since, DSAGA has held events on National Coming Out Day (October 11th) to remember these events. In 1997, Coming Out Week was developed by Karen Henein, who created the tradition of a week of events in between National and JHU Coming Out Days.

Preferred Citation

[Name of folder or item], [Date], [Box number], [Folder number], [Collection title], [Collection number], Special Collections, The Johns Hopkins University.

Processing Information

Processed by Kristen Diehl in February 2020.

Scope and Contents

The Diverse Sexuality and Gender Alliance (DSAGA) records provide information and context about the history and governance of the organization. The collection primarily consists of meeting minutes, executive board manuals, correspondence, broadsides, and other print materials created by DSAGA between 1986 and approximately 2017. The collection includes correspondence and petitions related to the first campus-wide observance of National Coming Out Day in 1996, when advertisements and posters created for the event by DSAGA were removed without permission by university staff. The collection also includes news clippings and correspondence from 1990, when DSAGA called on the university administration to review discriminatory policies in place at the JHU Army ROTC. DSAGA received a Governor's Citation from Maryland Governor Parris Glendening in 1998, and was sent letters from President Barack Obama celebrating Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Community Center Awareness Day in 2014 and 2015. These materials are present in the collection.

Conditions Governing Use

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Controlled Access Headings

- Bisexual college students
- College students--Societies and clubs
- Coming out (Sexual orientation)
- Gay college students
- Homophobia in higher education
- Lesbian college students
- Student life (university function)
- Transgender college students
- letters (correspondence)
- manuals (instructional materials)
- minutes (administrative records)
- newspapers
- photographs
- posters

Collection Inventory

Administrative records (1 of 2), 2000 - 2001

Box 1; Folder 1 (Mixed Materials)

Administrative records (2 of 2), 2000 - 2001

Box 1; Folder 2 (Mixed Materials)

Autographed photographs, approximately 1990s

Box 1; Folder 3 (Mixed Materials)

Awareness Days programs, 1999-2003 and 2005

Box 1; Folder 4 (Mixed Materials)

Broadsides and posters, approximately 1992-2014

Box 2; Folder 2-3 (Mixed Materials)

Descent Into Acceptance audition materials, 2004

Box 1; Folder 5 (Mixed Materials)

Executive Board Manual, 1st Edition, 1997 - 1998

Box 1; Folder 6 (Mixed Materials)

Arrangement

Arranged into two subseries.

Scope and Contents

This series contains correspondence from Remsen's colleagues, as well as correspondence with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Referee Board.

Executive Board Manual, 3rd Edition, 2005 - 2007

Box 1; Folder 7 (Mixed Materials)

Executive Board meeting minutes, 2000 - 2001

Box 1; Folder 8 (Mixed Materials)

Johns Hopkins Army ROTC discriminatory policy correspondence, 1990

Box 1; Folder 14 (Mixed Materials)

Johns Hopkins Army ROTC discriminatory policy news clippings, 1990

Box 1; Folder 15 (Mixed Materials)

Johns Hopkins News-Letter clippings, 1992 and 1998

Box 1; Folder 9 (Mixed Materials)

Milton S. Eisenhower Symposium featuring Lt. Dan Choi, 2012

Box 1; Folder 10 (Mixed Materials)

National Coming Out Day petitions and correspondence, 1996

Box 1; Folder 11 (Mixed Materials)

Parris Glendening Governor's Citation, 1998

Box 2; Folder 1 (Mixed Materials)

President Barack Obama letters on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Community Center Awareness Day, 2014 and 2015

Box 1; Folder 12 (Mixed Materials)

Resources for the GLBT Community: A Survey of 23 COFHE Schools, undated

Box 1; Folder 13 (Mixed Materials)

Safe Space program materials, approximately 2013-approximately 2017

Box 1; Folder 16 (Mixed Materials)

A Survival Guide for Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Students at The Johns Hopkins University: Selected Resources in the Baltimore/Washington Area, 1986

Box 1; Folder 17 (Mixed Materials)